Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

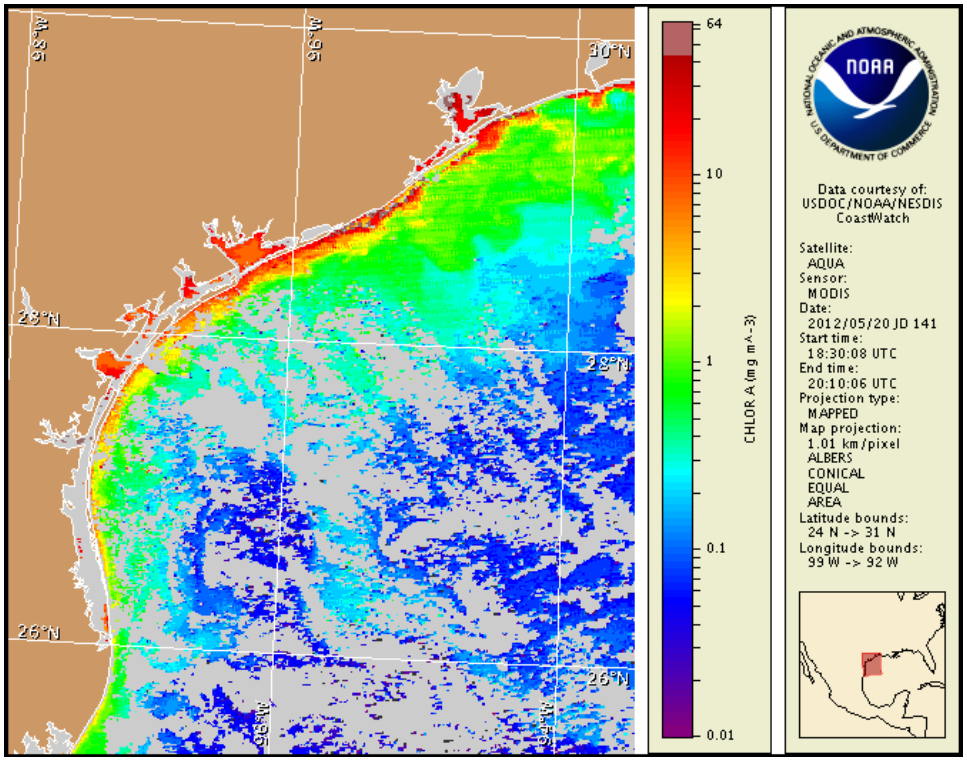
Monday, 21 May 2012

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, May 14, 2012



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from May 11 to 18 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Detailed sample information can be obtained through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us./landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml

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To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html

Conditions Report

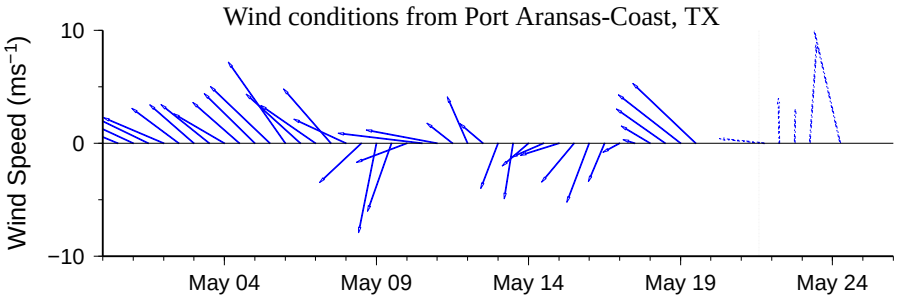
There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of Karenia brevis (Texas red tide) at the coast in Texas. No impacts are expected alongshore Texas today through Monday, May 28. There is currently a bloom of the algae Aureoumbra lagunensis in the upper Laguna Madre region. This algae does not produce respiratory impacts associated with the Texas red tide caused by Karenia brevis, but it may cause discolored water.

Analysis

Due to the upcoming Federal Holiday, the next bulletin will be issued on Tuesday, May 29.

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom of *Karenia brevis* at the coast in Texas. Recent MODIS imagery (5/20; shown left) is patchy along the coast of Texas. Elevated chlorophyll (2 to10 μg/L) is visible stretching along- and offshore the Texas coastline from Sabine Pass to the Padre Island region. Patches of high to very high chlorophyll (10 to >20 μg/L) are also visible from Sabine Pass to Pass Cavallo. Elevated chlorophyll is not indicative of the presence of *K. brevis* and is most likely due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments along the coast. Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential maximum transport of 25km north from the Port Aransas region from May 20-24.

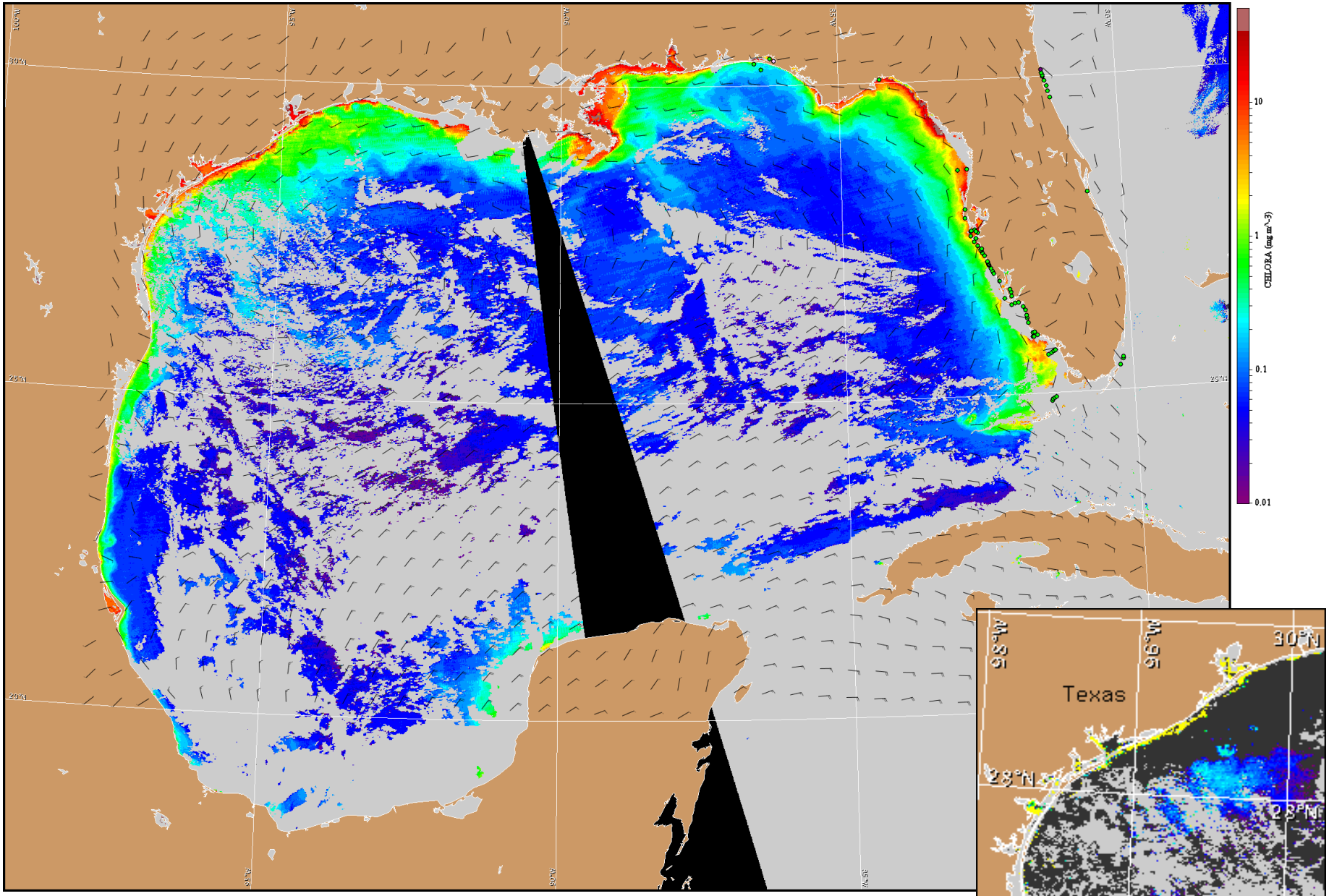
Derner, Yang



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas: East winds (5-10kn, 3-5m/s) today shifting south-southeast (10-15kn, 5-8m/s) tonight. Southwest winds (10kn, 5m/s) Tuesday shifting southeast Tuesday afternoon. South winds (10-20kn, 5-10m/s) Tuesday night through Thursday. Southeast winds (15-20kn, 8-10m/s) Thursday night through Friday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for May 22, 2012 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from May 11 to 18 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).